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NOTE ON THE BINARY STAR  $\beta$  1212 = 24 AQUARI

From the date of its discovery by Burnham in 1890 until 1916 the angular motion in the fine double star  $\beta$  1212 (R. A.  $21^h34^m.4$ ; Decl.  $-0^\circ30'$ ; Magnitudes 7.7, 8.2) was slow, the entire change in the 26 years amounting to only 40 degrees. The distance did not vary greatly from  $0''.5$ .

My measures in the present season (the only ones known to me since 1916), however, show a very marked change; the angular velocity has become much greater and the distance has diminished to less than half its earlier value. Burnham's conjecture, in 1899, that the components then had about their maximum separation seems to be confirmed.

The following observed positions will show the nature of the motion:

1890.75	254°.5	0.45	3n	Burnham
1898.80	269.0	0.50	4	Burnham and Aitken
1916.52	294.8	0.50	6	Leavenworth and Olivier
1921.66	321.1	0.22	3	Aitken

R. G. AITKEN.

September 20, 1921.

## A NEW DOUBLE STAR

On one of the plates taken in 1915 with the 30-inch refractor of the Allegheny Observatory for measuring the positions of the *Pleiades* stars the following B. D. star was found double which has not previously been listed as such:

B. D.  $22^\circ53'6$ , 9.3, R. A.  $3^h37^m57^s.6$ , Decl.  $+22^\circ54'17''.5$  (1900)

The measures of the plate of discovery together with recent micro-metrical measures with the 12-inch refractor of the Lick Observatory give:

1915.98 Pos. A.  $315^\circ.3$  Dist.  $1''.56$  Photogr. images not well separated.

1921.64            313.5            1.55 3n.

The photographic magnitudes of the two components were estimated on the plate as 10.5 and 11.8; the spectral class of the *Henry Draper Catalogue* is A2. The star, tho situated in the *Pleiades*, is not a physical member of this group, but has a small proper-motion.

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